

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-01

OPIC-01 LAB-02 SIL-01 L-03 IGA-02 EUR-06 /093 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:HCOHEN:CHG

7/26/73

APPROVED BY AF - MR NEWSOM

AID;AFR/ESA - MR KNOLL

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R 270603Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147765

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, MA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA WORKING SESSION
WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF RATSIRAKA-NEWSOM WORKING
SESSION IN DEPARTMENT JULY 26. COMPLETE DETAILS WILL BE
FORWARDED BY MEMCON. DR. RATSIMANDRESY AND AMB RAHARIJOANA
ACCOMPANIED RATSIRAKA. ON US SIDE WERE DEPUTY ASST ADMIN-
ISTRATOR BROWN AND KNOLL OF AID, DEPUTY ASST ADMINISTRAT-
OR MORRIS OF NASA, COHEN OF AF/C AND RAWLS OF AF/RA.

2. RICE: RATSIRAKA SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT US
EXPECTING BUMPER RICE CROP THIS YEAR. WOULD LIKE TO EX-
PLORE POSSIBILITY OF GOMR PROCURING 60,000 TONS. NEWSOM
REPLIED THAT WHILE PROSPECTS LOOK EXCELLENT, HARVEST ONLY
JUST BEGINNING AND WORLD NEEDS ARE GREAT. BETTER PICTURE
WILL BE AVAILABLE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. WE WILL ARRANGE
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CONTACT WITH RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION WHICH WILL HAVE
BEST INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF RICE IN COM-

MERCIAL QUANTITIES. PRELIMINARY PROJECTION FOR PRICE OF MEDIUM QUALITY IS \$13.25 PER HUNDRED POUNDS FOB. THERE ABSOLUTELY NO RICE STOCKS LEFT FROM LAST YEAR'S HARVEST. RATSIRAKA SAID SUFFICIENT RICE AVAILABLE NOW, BUT DUE TO HURRICANE CROP DAMAGE, IMPORTS WILL BE NEEDED IN NOVEMBER TO MEET SHORTFALL. THERE WAS NO RPT

NO DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CONCESSIONAL SALES. (TANANARIVE 1011 RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING. SEPTEL IN PREPARATION.)

3. TRAINING: RATSIRAKA SAID GOMR INTERESTED IN SENDING AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO LEARN MARKETABLE SKILLS AND PROFESSIONS. FRENCH DOMINATED UNIVERSITY SYSTEM UNTIL PRESENT TIME HAS PRODUCED ONLY SMALL EDUCATED ELITE, MANY OF WHOM UNABLE FIND APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT. WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GOING TO US TO STUDY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS. IDEA IS TO TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL RETURN MADAGASCAR TO TRAIN OTHERS. GOMR WOULD PREFER TO SEND UNDERGRADUATES, BUT WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO CONSIDER OFFERS FOR GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES. NEWSOM AND BROWN EXPLAINED THAT ON BASIS DECADE'S EXPERIENCE, USG FEELS TRAINING AT GRADUATE LEVEL MUCH MORE DESIRABLE IN TERMS OF IMPACT AND CONCRETE RESULTS. CONSEQUENTLY, AID HAS STOPPED UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN US AND WITHIN CURRENT MODEST FUNDING LEVELS CONCENTRATING EXCLUSIVELY ON GRADUATE LEVEL TRAINING. RATSIRAKA AND ASSOCIATES TOOK NOTE OF THREE POSSIBLE WAYS GOMR MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AID ASSISTED TRAINING:

(A) INTERAF PROGRAM FOR EXCHANGES AMONG AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES;

(B) TRAINING RELATED TO AID AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RAILROAD PROJECTS AND FUNDED UNDER LOANS; AND

(C) AFGRAD GRADUATE LEVEL PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY
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AAI IN WHICH GOMR WOULD FINANCE TRANSPORTATION, AID COVERS LIVING EXPENSES, AND US UNIVERSITIES PROVIDE TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS. NEWSOM SAID COMPLETE DETAILS WOULD BE PROVIDED IN WRITING. SUM TOTAL OF OPPORTUNITIES COULD BE ONLY VERY MODEST, HOWEVER.

4. LCTS; MINISTER SAID GOMR WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN SURPLUS LCTS FOR CIVILIAN COASTAL TRADE. WE REPEATED SAME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS LCTS IN JAPAN FOR OPEN BIDDING PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY EMBASSY.

MINISTER SAID GOMR WANTS TO RECEIVE LCTS AS GRANTS. WE
REPLIED THERE UNFORTUNATELY NO WAY GRANT COULD BE AR-
RANGED. EXIM FINANCING AVAILABLE. RATSIRAKA RESPONDED
THIS WOULD MAKE PURCHASES TOO EXPENSIVE.

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